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INFORMATION

June 22, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER
FROM: W. R. SMYER
SUBJECT: Raising the Aid Issue

I am concerned at recent material, including the letter from McGeorge Bundy, suggesting that we should negotiate with the North Vietnamese to continue our aid to the GVN. Much of the discussion appears to grow out of Chal Roberts' interview.

There has also been some talk about this on the Hill. One Congressman told me that he was reliably informed that the next big push for the peace groups would be for the cessation of all U.S. aid for the GVN. After this year's concentration on getting our forces out, they see that as the next issue on which we must be brought to heel. They will probably relate it to POW's.

That means Hanoi may want to raise this with us in public or in private, although indications of its intent have been very vague to date. Its handling may vary, depending on how the 1971 election comes out.

I think we should let this issue come to us rather than to go out to meet it and seek it. It is not something we should raise since we obviously do not want to negotiate it with the DRV but with the GVN. However, if it does come up, we should relate it to North Vietnamese aid to the NLF and to general Communist aid to Hanoi much more forcefully than we have over the past year linked our withdrawal to Hanoi's.

This is a point which might be worth making to Bruce in case people in his delegation begin talking about the issue, and particularly to give as guidance to his press spokesman.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS
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Per *N. J. L. [signature]*
By *[signature]* Date *2/1/80*

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